

Serial No. 10/629,180  
Group Art Unit: 2881  
Amdt. Dated January 21, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

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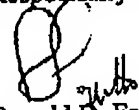
**Remarks/Arguments**

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) in view of CA 2,335,398 to Fenc. Additionally, the Examiner rejected two of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) in view of CA 2,332,669 to Fenc.

As discussed during a telephone interview with the Examiner on December 17, 2004, the inventor of these Canadian references is one and the same with the inventor of this application. In consequence, it is submitted that these Canadian references are not proper citations under 35 U.S.C. 102(a). Additionally, since the Canadian citations were made available to the public less than one year prior to the date of filing of this U.S. application, it is submitted that the Canadian references are not proper citations under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Applicant therefore requests that the 102 rejections of the Examiner be withdrawn and favourable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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